

Victorian Studies Association of Ontario



May 2012

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The President's Message

It was a pleasure to see so many VSAO members at our 45th spring conference, held the last weekend of April at York's Glendon College. The conference theme asked participants to work on the threshold between cultural production and anthropology, and attendees were rewarded with a superb collection of papers. In the morning panel, Deborah Reed-Danahay and Martin Danahay gave a talk that was literally a dialogue between disciplines, as an anthropologist and a literary critic compared takes on *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; Sherrin Berezowsky spoke on Francis Galton's early *Narrative* of his South African travels; and Alisha Walters gave an account of race and hybrid identity in Dinah Craik's novel *Olive*. The panel closed with questions and discussion before the conference moved to lunch. After lunch we were treated to two marvelous plenaries. The first was by Kathy Psomiades of Duke University, who discussed theories of primitive marriage in Victorian anthropology and social theory, and the turn in the 1860s away from understanding society to be founded on an economic or social contract to understanding based on the idea of sexual contract. In the second talk of the afternoon, Audrey Jaffe spoke on Eliot's *Adam Bede*, though in a talk with resonance far beyond that single novel, on the image of looking across a threshold as a figure for the reader's conscription by the realist novel. It was a truly stimulating and enriching day, and I am grateful to all of the speakers for their presentations, as well as to the VSAO executive for organizing the conference.

On the topic of the executive, I must with regret note that two of our Members at large, Fiona Coll and Connie Crompton, have reached the end of their term. We wish them all the best as their academic careers move forward, and offer them many thanks for all they have done for the Association in the last three years. At the annual business meeting over lunch at the conference, we elected three new Members at large to the executive: they are Beth Martin

and Letitia Henville, both of the University of Toronto, and Tina Choi of York University. A very warm welcome to all three, and deep thanks for agreeing to serve.

A special thank you to Fiona Coll, whose service to the Association has continued even after her term on the executive has formally concluded; she has contributed the guide to Victorian papers at this year's Congress to be found elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. I will look forward to attending some of those sessions, and hope to see you there.

Matthew Rowlinson
Department of English and Centre for Theory and Criticism,
University of Western Ontario

Panels of Interest to Victorianists at Congress 2012

University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University

The following is a list of panels happening under the purview of Congress 2012. The panels mentioned here focus on Victorian studies for the most part, but a few panels have been listed because they include an individual paper on a Victorian topic. Please confirm time and location details in the final programs. Individual organization programs can be accessed through the Congress website: <http://congress2012.ca/>

Our VSAO panel will be happening at ACCUTE on Tuesday, 29 May, 10:45 to 12:45:

13B – Victorian Hesitations: Indeterminacy in Language, Art, and Politics

Location: TBA

Organizers: Fiona Coll and Constance Crompton

Lesley Higgins (York): “‘Holy, wholly, hesitant’: The ‘wreck’ of the Speaker in Hopkins’s Poetry”

Letitia Henville (Toronto): “‘Untranslatable Eyes’: Indeterminacy in *Jude the Obscure*”

Martin Danahay (Brock): “‘Are We not Animals?’: Indeterminacy and Biopower in *The Island of Dr. Moreau*”

Abbreviations:

ACQL – Association for Canadian and Québec Literatures

ACCUTE – Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English

BSC – Bibliographic Society of Canada

CASBC – Canadian Association for the Study of Book Culture

CCLA – Canadian Comparative Literature Association

CHA – Canadian Historical Association

CLSA – Canadian Law and Society Association

CPA – Canadian Philosophical Association

IGA – International Gothic Association

NAVSA – North American Victorian Studies Association

Sunday, 27 May

9:00 – 10:00

CPA

The Role of the Imagination in the Work of William James

Location: RCH 207

Speaker: K. Bromhall (Guelph)

Commentator: K. Laderoute (McMaster)

Chair: B. Monast (Laval)

9:00 – 10:30

ACCUTE/NAVSA (Panel 1)

5B – Victorian Technologies

Location: TBA

Organizer: Jennifer Esmail

Mary Ellen Campbell (McMaster): "'The Terror By Day': Information, Technology and the Limits of Knowledge in Richard Marsh's *The Beetle* (1897)"

Jessica Kuskey (Syracuse): To 'make all classes kin': Media, Class and the Victorian Pleasure Telephone

Christopher Keep (Western): "Spirit Photography and Commodity Fetishism in the Nineteenth Century"

10:45 – 12:15

ACCUTE

6A – Early Canadian Print Culture

Location: TBA

Jessica Langston: "Troubling History: The Deconstruction and Reconstruction of the Document in Three Canadian Long Poems"

Ceilidh Hart: "Isabella Valancy Crawford: Authorship and the Newspaper Press"

Kevin Hutchings and Blake Bouchard: "Of Bad Blood and Stolen Skulls: Anna Jameson and Sir Francis Bond Head among the First Nations of Canada"

10:45 – 12:15

ACCUTE

6C – Glancing Backward

Location: TBA

Bruce Wyse: "Gothicized Authors and Uncanny Textuality in Two Neo-Victorian Novels"

Jessica Wolfe: "Species of Series: Collins, Darwin, and the Natural History of Resemblance"

Heather Jones: "Selling Technology: The Furniture Industry in Trollope's *Orley Farm*"

10:45 – 12:15

ACCUTE

6G – Blood and Guts and DNA

Location: TBA

Sylvia Pamboukian: "'That Wretched Italian Quack': Chloroform, Blood Transfusion, and Quackery in Mary Elizabeth Braddon's 'Good Lady Ducayne'"

Amanda Lim: "Spread the word and go viral: poetry, DNA, and dreams as archives of creative sharing"

Heather Latimer: "Stories for a New Generation: Reproduction, Biopolitics and Citizenship in Three Short Stories"

11:30 – 1:00

CCLA

Revisiting the 19th Century

Location: (Waterloo) Hagey Hall 2107

Chair: Michel Mallet

Vladimir Tumanov (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Western Ontario): "Reproduction in Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*: From the Stone Age to the Victorian Age"

Agata Buda (The Philological- Pedagogical Institute, Technical University of Radom, Poland) and Anna Włodarczyk-Stachurska: "The Idea of Intertextual References in the Postmodernist Novels by Antonia Susan Byatt: Comparative Aspects"

Paul Morris (École de traduction, Université de Saint-Boniface): "The Dead Child in the Writing of Vladimir Nabokov"

3:15 – 4:45

ACCUTE/IGA

8B – Contemporary Gothic

Location: TBA

Organizer: Karen MacFarlane

Angela Facundo: "The Queer Gothic: Peculiar Failures of Epistemophilia in Mark Danielewski's *House of Leaves*"

Bruce Wyse: "Re-situating Nineteenth-Century Gothic: Postmodern Riffs, Proliferating Dualities and the Triumph of Bio-Power in *Jekyll*"

Charn Jagpal: "To Believe or Not to Believe: Postmodernizing the Gothic in Bollywood's *Om Shanti Om*"

3:15 – 4:45

ACCUTE

8F – Other Victorians

Location: TBA

Patricia Rigg: "Aestheticism, Anachronism, and Late Victorian Gender Politics in the literary drama of Michael Field, Augusta Webster, and A. Mary F. Robinson"

Jo-Ann Wallace: "Lytton Goes to School: The Other Victorian Bloomsbury"

Dara Greaves: "Gender-Transcendent Sympathy: Late-Victorian Alternatives to Feminine Sympathy"

Monday, 28 May

8:30 – 10:00

CHA

Political Engagement in Colonial Canada

Location: (Waterloo) MC 4045

Jarett Henderson (Mount Royal University): “‘Addressmania’: Public Addresses, Personal Engagement, and the Politics of Loyalty in Post-Rebellion Lower and Upper Canada”

Dan Horner (McMaster): “‘Everyone has the right to protect themselves from a threatening scourge’: Debating Quarantine during Montreal’s 1847 Typhus Outbreak”

Bradley Miller (Toronto): “‘The joy of the fugitive for ages past’: Transnational Law and the Status of Refugees in British North America, 1833-1865”

8:30 – 10:00

CLSA

Race, Indigeneity and Justice in Legal History

Location: TBA

Bettina Bradbury, “Troubling Inheritances: An Illegitimate Maori Daughter Contests Her Father’s Will in the New Zealand Courts and the Judicial Review Committee of the Privy Council”

Susan McKelvey, “Creating the Myth of ‘Raceless’ Justice in the Murder Trial of *R. v. Richardson*, Sandwich, 1903”

Lyndsay Campbell, “Law and Racialization in Canada, 1850-1890”

9:00 – 10:30

ACCUTE

9D – Victorian Poets Abroad

Location: TBA

Rebekah A Lamb: “‘I would that I were dead’: Reading the Relationship between Boredom, Desire, and Temporality in Tennyson’s and Millais’ Representations of Mariana”

Amanda Labelle: “Romancing the Shadow in the Light of the Moon: The Construction of Blackness through Whiteness in Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s ‘The African’”

D.M.R. Bentley: “Pre-Raphaelites Abroad: A Phenomenological Reading of Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s ‘A Trip to Paris and Belgium’ as a Reflection of Pre-Raphaelite Aesthetics and Practices”

9:00 – 10:30

ACQL

Early Canadian Texts

Location: (Laurier) Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB) 2-105

Oana Godeanu-Kenworthy (Miami University, Ohio) “Citizens of a Global Empire: Forms of Government as Forms of Belonging in Early Canadian Literature”

Laurel Ryan (Toronto) “New Old World Tales: Medievalism in Montreal’s *Literary Garland* (1838-1851)”

Shoshannah Ganz (Memorial) “Eastern Encounters: L. Adams Beck as Buddhist Missionary”

10:00 – 11:00

CCLA

Mediating Benjamin

Location: (Waterloo) Hagey Hall 2107

Chair: Martin Parrot

Lauren Beard (Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto): “‘The rags, the refuse’: Walter Benjamin as Chiffonnier of the Nineteenth Century”
Lee Kuhnle (Social and Political Thought, York University): “The Text in the City: Reading Berlin’s Architectural Physiognomy as an Expression of Walter Benjamin’s 1st These in ‘Über den Begriff der Geschichte’”

10:30 – 12:00

CHA

Becoming Modern: Fin de siècle Canada

Location: (Waterloo) MC 2017

Facilitator: Penney Clark (UBC)

William Jenkins (York): “Toughest Street in Town? Toronto’s Stanley/Lombard Street, 1850-1914”

Madelaine Morrison (Carleton): “Imagining the Amateur : The Musical Conservatory Movement in Ontario, 1887-1919”

Alison Norman (Toronto): “‘A teacher to her people’: Aboriginal teachers in Southern Ontario”

Sara Spike (Carleton): “‘Observers in training’: Phenological Reporting and Rural Vision in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Nova Scotia”

10:30 – 12:00

CHA

Creating the Canadian State : Mid-Nineteenth Century Governance

Location: (Waterloo) MC 4045

Facilitator: Roberta Lexier (Mount Royal University)

Daniel Heidt (Western): “‘First Among Equals’: Ontario Federalism, 1864-1872”

Joanna Pearce (York): “Not For Alms But Help : Free Education for the Blind in Nova Scotia, 1873-1882”

Peter Price (Queen’s): “An ‘immorality’ or ‘modern doctrine’? Changing the nature of national allegiance in the Canadian Naturalization Act, 1881”

Daniel Simeone (McGill): “Moral Risk and Commercial Uncertainty : The Bankruptcy and Insolvency Debate in 1840s to 1890s Canada”

10:45 – 12:15

ACCUTE

10D – Border Crossings

Location: TBA

Julia M. Wright: “The Outsider National Tale: Irish Romantic Writers on the French Wars of Religion”

Mélissa LeBlanc: “Longfellow’s Legacy: *Evangeline* across National and Linguistic Borders”

Leslie Allin: “‘My blunt way of writing’: The efficacy of the pen and narratives of masculine imperialism in Haggard’s *King Solomon’s Mines*”

10:45 – 12:15

ACCUTE/NAVSA (Panel 2)

10F – The Technologies of Victorian Studies

Organizer: Jennifer Esmail

Location: TBA

Susan Brown (Guelph and Alberta): “Grace Aguilar’s ‘Lady Gresham’s Fete’: Female Commodification, the Annual and Technologies of the Visual”

Sherrin Berezowsky (Western Ontario): “Neo-Victorian Knitting: Print Technology and the Refashioning of the Past”

Eddy Kent (Alberta): “Collaboration in Victorian Studies: An Ecological Approach to the Emergence of New Interpretive Communities”

10:45 – 12:15

ACCUTE

10G – Timely Interventions

Location: TBA

Jason Camlot: “Generic Transposition in *Blackwood’s* Criticism, 1825-1835”

Victoria Lamont: “The Cowboys vs. the Dentists: The Regional Struggle for the Popular Western, 1902-1920”

12:15 to 1:20: 19th Century

Christianity and Literature Study Group

Location: TBA

Chair: Michael John Di Santo (Algoma)

Heather Jones (Fraser Valley): “Wisdom Literature and Protestant Poetry: The Book of Psalms, Milton, and Charles Heavyside’s Sonnets”

D. M. R. Bentley (Western): “Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s Painter Pictures, Robert Browning’s ‘Art-Poems,’ and the End of Pre-Raphaelitism”

1:30 – 3:00

ACCUTE

11E – Victorian Shattered Nerves

Location: TBA

Melissa Walker: “There, there, drink your milk: Nervousness, the Case Study, and Self-Help in Ella Hepworth Dixon’s *The Story of a Modern Woman*”

Margaret Anne Young: “‘Phantom Life’: Spectralization, Women, and the Gothic”

Ada Sharpe: “No ‘dull list of words’: *North and South*’s Paratextual and Metafictional Claims for a British Tradition of Women’s Writing”

1:30 – 3:00

CHA

Ethnicity and Religion in Turn of the 20th Century in North America

Location: (Waterloo) MC 2034

Facilitator: Royden Loewen (Winnipeg)

Ashleigh Androsoff (Toronto): “Citizenship at the Crossroads : Non-Citizens and Nation-Building in Turn of the Century Canada”

Benjamin Bryce (York): "On the Borders of North America : German Lutheran Space, Transnationalism, and Community, 1880-1930"

Cornelius Jaenen (Ottawa): "Catholicism and Belgian Immigration to Western Canada, 1880-1960"

1:30 – 3:00

CHA

Women, Power and Colonial Society in the Nineteenth Century

Location: (Waterloo) MC 2054

Facilitator: Melanie Newton (Toronto)

Laura Ishiguro (University College, London): "British women and Anglo-Indian military communities on the late nineteenth-century Northwest Frontier"

Meleisa Ono-George (Warwick): "Women, Sex and Freedom : 'Illicit' Sex in Post-Emancipation Antigua"

Adele Perry (Manitoba): "Free Women of Colour in early Nineteenth Century Guyana"

1:30 – 3:00

CHA

Taxing the Working Man in Georgian and Victorian Canada

Location: (Waterloo) MC 4045

Facilitator: Lynne Taylor (Waterloo)

Jeffrey L. McNairn (Queen's): "Contribution and Consent : Statute Labour and Governance in Upper Canada"

Colin Grittner (McGill): "Working at the crossroads : statute labour, manliness, and electoral franchise on Victorian Prince Edward Island"

Elsbeth Heaman (McGill): "Taxation at Point-Blank Range in mid-Victorian British Columbia"

2:30 – 4:00

CCLA

Questions of Religion

Chair: Paul Morris

Location: (Waterloo) Hagey Hall 2107

Anna Makolkin (Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian Canadian Studies, University of Toronto): "The Biblical Past in the 19th-century Historical Opera: Verdi/Solera's *Nabucco*"

Uzma Qazi (Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta): "Crossroads and Crosscurrents in Iqbal"

3:00 – 5:00

BSC

Authors, Editors, and Publishers

Location: (Waterloo) J.R. Coutts Engineering Lecture Hall 307

Chair: Sandra Alston (University of Toronto)

Frederick David King (University of Western Ontario): "Inverting the Ideal Book: Charles Ricketts, Aubrey Beardsley, and Queer Textuality"

Elizabeth Willson Gordon (Simon Fraser University): "The Unknown History of the Hogarth

Press: 1941 to the Present”

Lise Jaillant (University of British Columbia): “‘I’m Afraid I’ve Got Involved with a Nut’: William Faulkner, James Culpepper and Random House”

Chris Fox (University of Victoria): “Editing in Literary Diversity: Barbara Kuhne Re-visions Press Gang’s Publishing”

Tuesday, 29 May

10:45 – 12:15

ACCUTE/VSAO

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Wednesday, 30 May

10:40 – 12:00

CASBC

Women Writers and Readers

Location: (Waterloo) J.R. Coutts Engineering Lecture Hall 305

Chair: Kathryn Carter (Laurier)

Comment: Isabelle Lehuu (UQAM)

Leah Knight (Brock): “Uncertainty in the History of Reading: A Case Study of Method”

Cecily Devereux (Alberta): “‘This little Work’: The Uncertain World of Pre-Confederation Poetry Monographs by Women in Canada”

Summary of 2012 VSAO Evening Lecture

Jennifer Esmail (Wilfrid Laurier University)

“‘I wonder what a chimpanzee would say to this?’:
Primate Cognition in the Victorian Evolutionary Debates”

7 March 2012, University College, University of Toronto

Professor Esmail’s talk focused on how Victorian responses to the debates about evolution attended to the potential, or imagined, cognitive capacities of apes. She argued that at a time when qualities such as reason or speech were culturally understood as the barrier between humans and animals, ape abilities became a “battleground” for the evolutionary debates that involved Victorians in a range of disciplines from scientists like Charles Darwin, George J. Romanes and T.H. Huxley, to animal activists including Frances Power Cobbe and Henry

Salt, to fiction writers such as Rudyard Kipling and H.G. Wells. Whether these Victorians were focused on the differences between the physical attributes of each species' brain structure, the potential ability of apes to use language or the ethical implications of similarities between humans and apes, they rhetorically drew on ape capacities – and often, an ape's imagined perspective – in order to “support their own ideological positions on evolutionary theory and, more widely, on animal-human relations.” Indeed, all of these cultural discussions responded to Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection by imagining the potential ethical responsibilities that hinged on closer human-animal relations.